

**Crucial First Aid
Instructions for King Cobra,
Krait, Coral Snake, and
Keelback Snakebite**

**Instructions for Venomous
Snakebite in Thailand and
Surrounding Countries for
King Cobra, Krait, Coral
Snakes, and Keelback Bites**

KRAIT, KEELBACK, KING COBRA, and CORAL SNAKE BITE FIRST AID

Initial First Aid Before Arriving At Hospital

1. Remove bite victim from area snake is located, to prevent further bites.
2. Have victim lie down, and stay still. Reassure the person, inform that some bites are dry and don't contain any venom. Snake venom takes time to have effect, and it may be hours or days before there are severe symptoms. However, in some circumstances the life threatening effects of venom can be quite rapid and begin to occur in minutes.
3. Call emergency medical personnel to have them pick up the victim and transport to a major hospital. Or, if you can do it safely yourself, and the travel distance is not far, or no other forms of transportation are available, take the victim to the hospital in a vehicle immediately. If on a motorbike, put the bitten victim in the middle between the driver and someone in the back to hold him.
4. Reassure the victim, all bites can be treated.
5. ALSO AVOID:
 - alcohol
 - touching the wound
 - wiping
 - cutting it open
 - sucking wound with mouth
 - cauterization
 - excision
 - tourniquet
 - amputation
 - vacuum pump or syringe
 - injection or instillation of anything
 - electric shock
 - ice
 - herbal, folk remedies of any kind
 - tattooing
6. Remove all rings and jewelry from a bitten limb. Severe swelling may occur.

7. Wrap the bitten limb with an elastic bandage, or any strips of cloth about 2-inches wide. Start at the outer limit of the limb (foot, hand) and wrap up the limb toward the heart. Wrap right over top of the bite site and continue as high

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up the limb as possible. If bitten on the leg or foot, wrap to the groin. If bitten on the arm or hand, wrap to the armpit. The wrap should be snug, and yet you should be able to put a finger under it easily.

This wrap will keep most of the venom trapped in the limb. Do NOT remove it once it is in place. It can be unwrapped by the doctor or nurses once at the hospital.

8. Keep the limb as immobile as possible using a splint or sling. Remember, stability is crucial, every muscle contraction sends the venom further on its path through the body.

9. If problems develop with airway, circulation, or heart function - you must treat these with priority.

10. Absolutely no alcohol. No aspirin or any sedatives or other drugs.

11. Give water only.

12. Do not attempt to kill the snake, but if the offending snake has already been killed, bring it with the victim to the hospital for identification. A lifeless looking snake can still bite and envenomate - even after the head is removed. Be very careful. If not taking the dead snake to the hospital, get photos of the head and body if possible.

13. Transport of the snakebite victim should be as quick as possible to the nearest large hospital. The bigger hospitals will have all the necessary equipment and probably antivenom on hand to treat the snakebite victim.

Information taken from **“Is That Snake In Your House Dangerous? Identify Dangerous Thailand Snakes in Under 5 Minutes.”**

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